

ALL survey

Bulletin no. 2 April 2000

- I. Introduction**
- II. Schedule and upcoming milestones**
- III. Status Report**
 - . Background questionnaire
 - . Numeracy
 - . Prose and Document
 - . Problem solving
 - . ICTL and Teamwork
- IV. Internet Site**
- V. Next meetings**
- VI. Latin American Network**

Don't forget to visit our Internet site at:

<http://www.nces.ed.gov/ilss/>

I. Introduction

As important upcoming milestones are at our door, we would like to clarify the schedule and important steps that need to be taken in the upcoming months. Our goal is to have all instruments ready by June 2000 so that each National Project Manager can start the necessary translation and adaptation of the instruments this summer.

To date only a few countries have submitted their National Planning reports. We are busy carefully reviewing these and will keep the concerned national project managers

Any questions regarding this Bulletin and its content can be addressed to:
Yvan Clermont
Special Surveys Division
Statistics Canada
1-B39, Jean-Talon Building
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada, K1A 0T6
Tel: (613) 951-3326
Fax: (613) 951-4527
cleryva@statcan.ca

informed of any modification required within the next month.

Yvan Clermont
ALL International Coordinator

II. Schedule and upcoming milestones

There are many activities that each national study team must successfully complete before the pilot study is conducted during the first quarter of 2001. These include:

1. Elaboration of a planning report
2. Team organization
3. Finalization of the instruments
4. Development of any national options to be included in the background questionnaire
5. Translation and adaptation
6. Booklet and BQ composition
7. Data collection

Because many of these important steps depend on information ALL management is to provide, when in doubt, even on the most trivial matter, **please let us know.**

To help you plan for each of the activities necessary before the Pilot, the attached schedule of activities includes the required time between each activity.

Provisional Schedule of Activities

- March International BQ Meeting
- April-May Translation and Adaptation of International Background Questionnaire
- May 30th Country Background Questionnaires and documentation sent to STC
- June Prose, Document and Numeracy Test Adaptation and Translation meeting

- June-Aug Translation and Adaptation of Prose, Document and Numeracy items, administration guide and scoring manual
- Aug 15th Prose, Document and Numeracy items, administration guide and scoring manual sent to STC for review
- Aug 30th STC send BQ comments to countries
- Aug-Sept Translation and Adaptation of Problem Solving items, administration guides and scoring manual
- Sept 15th Problem Solving items, administration guides and scoring manual sent to STC for review
- Sept 30th STC send comments on Prose, Document and Numeracy items to countries
- Oct Construction of final instruments with supporting documentation (including: Task Administration manual, scoring manual, interviewer manuals, training manuals for interviewers and scorers)
- Nov 15th Instrument sign-off meeting
- Dec Printing of field documents (Booklets, BQ (if applicable), screener, manuals, control forms, interviewer call records, etc...)
- Dec 15th STC send Final International Record Layout (IRL) for Pilot to Countries
- Jan 2001 Collection

III. Status Report

1. Background questionnaire

An all-country background questionnaire meeting was held March 27-29 in Ottawa, Canada. Countries were invited to send representatives to actively participate in the design of the BQ. The following countries were represented at the meeting: Austria, Canada, Finland, Italy, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States. The meeting was an informative exchange that led to BQ variables being specified as rejected, internationally required with or without modification, internationally optional with or

without modification and nationally optional. In addition, new variables were specified. All National Representatives were asked to submit any further comments in writing by April 7. A preliminary table outlining the classification of the BQ variables will be sent to the meeting participants for verification. Following this process, a final table will be produced and circulated to ALL survey partners for comment.

Two of the survey modules were identified as requiring significant revision: the Participation in Education and Learning module and the Social Capital module. Two working groups were formed to address the issues in each of these modules and work is now underway. Revisions to the remaining modules are also taking place. Because a small test of the BQ is planned in Canada during May, a second draft questionnaire will be ready at that time. Current plans call for a more refined draft of the BQ to be available in late- May for circulation to the Program Advisory Group and all National Study Managers.

Please address any questions or comments you have regarding the International Background Questionnaire to:

Lynn Barr-Telford barrlyn@statcan.ca
Trevor Williams williat1@westat.com

2. Numeracy

Last February, the numeracy team met in Montreal to discuss the outcomes of the feasibility study that took place in Utrecht and Los Angeles. At that meeting the team members chose a final pool of items to be presented at the National Project Managers meeting in June. Work was also done on the scoring guide, design of the instrument, the translation guide and identification of critical item elements. Finally, the team discussed the possibility of developing a new instrument to better discriminate and understand what goes on at lower levels of numeracy. A proposal to run oral blocks of items where respondents would be read the questions instead of reading them themselves was discussed. The numeracy team has also proposed a second follow-up study where low-level respondents in numeracy and literacy could be evaluated using oral blocks. These proposals are under consideration by the management team.

Schedule of activities for numeracy is as follow:

- 1) Preparation of the revision kit: March 3
 - 2) NPM finalize their revision by March 24
 - 3) Finalization of scoring guide, items, copyright, critical elements, and framework by Apr. 14
 - 4) Submit blocks of items to be fielded in the pilot: April 21
 - 5) Block proposal review by ETS: April 28
 - 6) Composition of booklets in English version and mail-out to countries for translation and adaptation:
- May 15, 2000**

Dr. Iddo Gal
iddo@research.haifa.ac.il
Yvan Clermont
cleryva@statcan.ca

3. Prose and Document

In February, participating countries and a few independent experts were invited to participate in a first revision of all stimuli, items and scoring guides provided by item writers. We received filled revision forms from 8 countries.

Because so many stimuli and items had been submitted, very little is needed to complete the instruments at this time. All submitted items have been reviewed by ETS and were used to fill gaps in the version of the assessment to be used in the pilot study. Countries' representation still remains an important issue and it is part of the criteria for ETS to fill the gaps.

A first version of prose and document booklets is now ready. It contains 50 stimuli with 191 accompanying tasks spread over 7 blocks and booklets. The stimuli and tasks originated in Argentina, Canada, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, the United States and Venezuela. The final version of the literacy booklets for the Pilot will be available in **May 2000**.

Irwin Kirsch
Yvan Clermont
ikirsh@ets.org
cleryva@statcan.ca

4. Problem Solving

The Institut für Bildungsforschung (IBF) has constructed eight projects to measure analytical reasoning. Each project consists of several tasks that take between 20 and 30 minutes to complete. The projects were administered in a feasibility study in Germany and the United States. As a result of the feasibility studies, the Problem Solving Team has recommended that six be included in the pilot study. The team is currently working on revisions to the framework, minor reworking of the projects and the related materials, as well as preparing for a meeting on translation that will be held late in August or early in September.

Jean Paul Reeff
reeff@men.lu
Marilyn Binkley
marilyn_binkley@ed.gov

5. Teamwork & Information, Communication and Technology Literacy (ICTL)

At the last National Study Managers meeting in Princeton the managers decided that given the stage of development of both the Information, Communication and Technology Literacy and Teamwork assessments, that for the present it would be better to use an indirect assessment that could be appended to the background questionnaire. With that goal in mind teams have begun work on designing these measures so that they would each take no longer than 10 minutes and could be administered after the literacy and numeracy assessments. Since the National Study Managers Meeting in Luxembourg, the original developers for both ICTL and Teamwork assessments have produced revised versions of their original work. Copies of the original assessments were also forwarded to group of experts in Sweden for both ICTL and Teamwork.

Teamwork assessment

The teamwork assessment is currently a short module of about 2 minutes and is designed to cover

two dimensions of teamwork: past experiences in teamwork and attitude toward teamwork. A third important dimension of teamwork, teamwork skills, is also being redesigned for inclusion.

At this stage, we believe that a new assessment covering the three dimensions of teamwork will be ready the end of April. This will be tested in Canada with a small sample and will be subjected to focus group discussions.

Information, Communication and Technology Literacy (ICTL)

The ICTL measure currently takes approximately 7 minutes and is designed to cover 6 dimensions:

1. General use of communication technology;
2. Computer use and skills;
3. Computer use in specific contexts;
4. Development of computer skills;
5. Benefit of computer use;
6. Receptivity to computer use among current non-users.

Some sections of the questionnaire will be redesigned to allow scaling of the questions and to address important cultural concerns raised by the National Project Managers.

A new version of the assessment of the ICTL module should be available by the end of April

ICTL and Teamwork

After the draft versions of both ICTL and Teamwork instruments are ready, there will be some feasibility testing in both Ottawa and Rome. Both instruments should be ready in their final format for the Pilot by the beginning of July and will be distributed to all countries for sign-off.

David Baker
DBaker@air.org
Graham Lowe
graham.lowe@ualberta.ca
Yvan Clermont
cleryva@statcan.ca

IV. Internet Site

Despite the change in the project name, the internet address remains the same. We are currently updating the site so that the frameworks, sample items and planning information can be easily accessed there.

V. Next meetings

The ALL management is assuming responsibility for arranging the following upcoming meetings:

National Project Manager Meeting (1st translation meeting)

June 5-6, location to be soon determined.
Attends: NPM and translators

2nd Translation meeting (review meeting)

September 2000, location to be determined
Attends: NPM

VI. Errata

Latin American Network

In the last bulletin, a mistake was introduced when we referred to the Latin American Network as being represented by the following countries: Chile, Costa-Rica, Mexico and Venezuela. The countries that have actively participated in the Latin American network for prose and document item development are in fact: Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico and Venezuela. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.
